

favourable years. I have no reason for doubting this information as it was volunteered, and moreover these Mohannas know the Sindhi and English names of every duck to be found there. It seems to me that the Marbled Duck must now be regarded as a regular breeder in Sind and Baluchistan.

Pochard or Dun-bird (*Nyroca ferina*).—Shot a ♂ in February 1917.

MESOPOTAMIA EXPEDITIONARY FORCE,  
May 1917.

F. LUDLOW, I.A.R.O.

#### No. X.—THE WEIGHTS OF PINTAIL AND FANTAIL SNIPE.

Since writing to you on 18th January 1915 on the subject of the comparative weights of Pintail and Fantail Snipe, I have now compiled the figures for the past three seasons in this neighbourhood, and submit them, as I think they may be of some interest. I shall be glad to hear if others have carried out similar experiments, and to compare their results with mine.

SEASON: September 1914—March 1915.

The average weight of 375 Pintails was 3.90 oz. while that of 151 Fantails was 3.25 oz.

SEASON: October 1915—April 1916.

The average weight of 998 Pintails was 3.81 oz. while that of 84 Fantail was 3.51 oz.

SEASON: September 1916—March 1917.

The average weight of 974 Pintails was 4.07 oz. while that of 63 Fantails was 3.48 oz.

Very occasionally a big Fantail would be found, and I have a note of one weighing 5½ oz., shot on 20th February 1916 and one of 5 oz. shot on 11th March 1917.

The above appears to be conclusive that in Southern India at any rate the Fantail Snipe is decidedly the lighter bird.

Jack Snipe have weighed from 1½ to 2 oz.

The past season has been somewhat remarkable for the fact that not a single specimen of Jack Snipe was seen, either by my shikari or myself, though I know of two having been shot by another sportsman. My previous experience has been that they make about 1 per cent. of the bag.

MADURA, S. INDIA,  
24th June 1917.

R. F. STONEY.

#### No. XI.—THE BRONZE-BACKED TREE SNAKE (*DENDROLAPHIS TRISTIS*) IN CENTRAL INDIA.

I send a snake. Is it not *Dendrolaphis tristis*? If so, Wall says:—Journal Vol. XIX, p. 786—"It has not been recorded from Central India. They are by no means uncommon in the teak forest here and are called by the Bhils "Urni Saup," i.e., the flying snake. It is believed, as usual, to be deadly.

THE AGENCY, MANPUR, C.I.,  
4th May 1917.

C. E. LUARD, MAJOR.

[The snake sent by Major Luard proved to be *Dendrolaphis tristis*.—Eds.]

#### No. XII.—THE BRONZE-BACKED TREE SNAKE (*DENDROLAPHIS TRISTIS*) IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

In Vol. XX, p. 857, Mr. Bernard Cooke records the occurrence of this snake at Dhaura, which is about two miles beyond the boundary of these Provinces, and the other day I secured one at Nagpur; it being the first I have seen during the last six years. The great gap in its distribution in Central